



**The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP**

Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Heritage

Mr Pete Shmigel  
CEO  
Australian Council of Recycling

By email: [pete.shmigel@acor.org.au](mailto:pete.shmigel@acor.org.au)

Dear Mr Shmigel,

I am writing to reaffirm the NSW Government's support for the continuation of the alternative waste treatment (AWT) industry following recent regulatory changes implemented by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

I want to make it clear that the NSW Government is committed to a viable AWT industry and will continue to work with the industry to ensure its future. This includes providing certainty on regulatory requirements for future uses as soon as possible and providing funding to assist with the transition required to meet new product standards or process different feedstock.

Exactly what that future looks like is necessarily framed by the additional research being undertaken by the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer. I am advised that this work is close to being finalised. The EPA will then work across Government to complete additional analysis, such as finalising the human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA).

This expert advice will inform the consideration of future possible uses for mixed waste organic material (MWOO) and any appropriate controls that may be needed. I am firmly of the view that this consideration must be collaborative and include discussions with stakeholders.

Depending on the outcomes of the ongoing research work, future possible uses could include the agricultural market, subject to strict physical contaminant limits and controls to be determined, as well as use on forestry and mining land.

As you are aware, the EPA is in the process of finalising grant agreements to provide financial support to industry over 12-months under Phase 1 of the AWT Support Package. This is in addition to a 12-month waste levy exemption I approved to enable MWOO to be disposed of at landfills without additional waste levy costs.

Phase 2 of the AWT Support Package is still under development and it will consider wider industry structural support, for example grants for AWT facility upgrades. However, the NSW Government will continue to support the AWT industry until there is regulatory certainty.

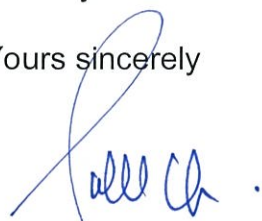
If required, the NSW Government will extend Phase 1 of the AWT Support Package for AWT operators that sign the Phase 1 grant agreement, until Phase 2 is finalised.

The NSW Government is also committed to working with the AWT industry in developing the 20 Year Waste Strategy for NSW and delivering on the NSW Circular Economy Policy principles. Following public consultation at the end of 2018, the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement will soon be finalised and published on the EPA website.

Our 20 Year Waste Strategy for NSW will set a long-term vision for reducing waste, driving sustainable recycling markets and identifying and improve the state and regional waste infrastructure network. The AWT industry's insights and experience will be critical in the development of an effective Strategy, particularly noting the industry's commitment to resource recovery for beneficial re-use. I am advised that the EPA is arranging meetings with you in the coming weeks to seek your views.

I hope this better explains the NSW Government's position regarding the AWT industry.

Yours sincerely



**Gabrielle Upton MP**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Heritage

19.2.19